



ASSEMBLYMEMBER
NICOLE PARRA
Representing the 30th Assembly District



Parra Notes

February 24, 2006

Hello Friends:

THE WEEK IN SACRAMENTO

This week, I introduced the following legislation:

AB 2101, which would enable school districts to offer an expanded Independent Study (IS) option to students who are forced to miss school when an immediate family member is deployed overseas or returns home relating to military service.

AB 2143, legislation that will change the designation of Highway 43 to an inter-regional and inter-county route under state transportation codes, making this stretch of highway eligible for additional state funds.

AB 2300, legislation that creates a funding mechanism for the Crime Stoppers program and establishes a statewide commission to oversee local Crime Stoppers organizations.

AB 2333, legislation that would impose stricter limitations regarding the possession of others' personal information without legitimate reason and also extends the statute of limitations for identity theft, from the date the crime was committed to the date of discovery of the crime.

Also this week, I met with **Ed Manning** and **Carolyn Jensen**, of the **Westlands Water District**, to discuss water issues affecting the 30th Assembly District.

Formed in 1952, the **Westlands Water District** provides a timely, reliable and affordable water supply to landowners and water users within its jurisdiction, and it provides drainage service to lands that need it. All told, the District includes more than 600,000 acres of farmland in western **Fresno** and **Kings** Counties. The District serves approximately 600 family-owned farms that average 900 acres in size.

For more information about the Westlands Water District, please visit their web site at <http://www.westlandswater.org/>

I also sat down with representatives from the **California Poultry Foundation (CPF)**. This trade association, founded in 1990, represents the state's turkey and chicken producers and marketers. All dimensions of the industry are represented by the CPF including growers, hatchers, breeders, and processors. We discussed a number of issues affecting this industry and I learned a great deal about the work the CPF does.

For more information on the **California Poultry Foundation**, please view their web site at <http://www.cpf.org/>

The **California Association of Pest Control Advisers (CAPCA)** also stopped by my Sacramento office this week. **CAPCA** serves as a representative for over 75% of the state's nearly 5,000 licensed pest control advisers. Pest control advisers provide pest management consultation for the production of food, fiber and ornamental industries of this state.

To find out more about **CAPCA**, please access their web site at <http://www.capca.com/>

It was also great to spend time with **Janet Hogan, Teri Brown, Steve Laid, and Dr. Jinadu** to discuss issues surrounding **First 5 Kern County**. I applaud their work and the work of all those who strive to make **First 5** such an effective organization in serving the needs of our children. To this point, **First 5 Kern County** has disbursed in excess of \$78 million dollars to 225 individual programs sponsored by 182 different organizations throughout **Kern County**. In total, these programs bring assistance to more than 52,000 children and nearly 30,000 families, making sure that all children are healthy and prepared to enter school.

I encourage all of you to visit the web site of **First 5 Kern** at <http://kccfc.org/>

I also held a meeting with health care leaders, from the 30th District, and representatives from the **California Hospital Association (CHA)** to discuss health issues affecting our district. Based in Sacramento, CHA is the leading advocate for hospitals, health systems, and other health care providers in California.

For additional information on the **California Hospital Association**, please check out their web site at <http://www.calhealth.org/>

Frank Chavez and **Dr. Linda Gonzalez**, from the **Richgrove School District**, also stopped by my office in Sacramento, where they gave me a full update on the goings on in the school district.

Additionally, I had a great lunch with **Assistant Adjutant General Kight, Adjutant General Wade, and Lieutenant Colonel Wells** of the **California National Guard**. We discussed a number of military issues and the upcoming confirmation hearing for **Adjutant General Wade** at the **National Guard**.

Later in the week, I had the honor of attending the **Crime Stoppers** appreciation dinner on Thursday night in **Fresno**. **Crime Stoppers** offers an online presence for all crime stoppers in today's high-tech world. They are devoted to providing state-of-the-art solutions to unify all **Crime Stoppers Programs** worldwide, big and small.

This organization's work is really impressive because they have created an easy to use online resource for the concerned citizen to join **Crime Stoppers** to prevent and solve crimes.

I encourage you all to have a look at their web site at <http://www.crimestoppersonline.com/>

This morning, I spoke to students at **Golden Valley High School** in **Bakersfield**. I tried to give them an idea of what my job as a state legislator entails. I really enjoyed spending time with these young men and women, and, based on their responses and their questions, I am certain that we will be seeing a few of them representing us in **Sacramento** in the future.

After leaving **Golden Valley High School**, I met with representatives and children from the

California Youth Connection (CYC) at my **Bakersfield District Office**. I basically served as a moderator between the foster youth and various public agencies including the **Kern County Housing Authority**, the **Department of Human Services**, and **Dr. Horace Mitchell** from **California State University, Bakersfield**. Also in attendance were **Mardi Sharples** and **Tom Bacca** – the meeting proved to be very productive as all the parties involved expressed a strong interest in coordinating their efforts to better serve our foster kids. Later in the day, I toured the **Employers Training Resource (ETR)** building in **Bakersfield**, accompanied by **Edward Dominguez, Assistant Director of ETR**.

On Saturday morning, I will be joining **Pastor Jordan**, friends, and volunteers from the **Stop the Violence** campaign as we participate in the **Bakersfield Black History Parade**.

On Saturday, I will also be meeting with **Don Rogers** and representatives from the **S.A.F.E. Network** regarding sexual predators and abductors. **S.A.F.E.** is a non-profit organization committed to advocating for and protecting children and young adults from sexual abuse, molestation, exploitation and abduction.

To find out further about the **S.A.F.E. Network**, please have a look at their web site at <http://www.safenetwork.org/>

Saturday evening, I will be attending **Hanford's Black History Month Celebration**, at the **Hanford Civic Auditorium**. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and dinner is at 6:00 p.m. Tickets for the dinner are \$20.00.

There will be various forms of entertainment including, live musical performances, stories, songs and visual arts.

I hope many of you are able to join us for what promises to be a memorable evening.

PLEASE JOIN ME AT THE LAST TWO OF OUR CAL GRANT WORKSHOPS
CAL GRANTS AND FAFSA WORKSHOPS

As many of you might know, paying for college can be difficult, but California has always been a leader in providing eligible students with an affordable college education. Cal Grants, a need-based financial aid program, has been a big part of making college affordable for many California families. Qualified students can get up to \$8,322 a year to attend almost any college in California – awards vary depending on need, grades, and the college you attend.

This year I will be hosting four **Cal Grant and FAFSA Workshops** throughout my district to give high school seniors, community college transfer students (under 24 years of age), and GED holders (within one year of completion) an opportunity to learn about and apply for **Cal Grants** and other types of financial assistance programs. It is important to note that in order to be considered for many of these programs you must submit a **Free Application For Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** application to the **U.S. Department of Education** before **March 2nd**.

I look forward to seeing you at this weekend's Cal Grant Workshops at Hanford and Arvin High Schools. Below, you will find a comprehensive list of dates and locations for upcoming Cal Grant Workshops I will be hosting throughout the district. If you are unable to make any of these, I encourage you to visit www.fafsa.ed.gov for information on filling out a FAFSA form and www.csac.ca.gov for information on CAL Grants.

Hanford:
Saturday, February 25th
1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Hanford High School Career Center
120 E. Grangeville Boulevard

Arvin
Sunday, February 26th
Noon to 2:00 p.m.
Arvin High School Cafeteria
900 Varsity Road

If you are planning to attend any of these workshops please be sure to bring the documents listed below. They will be needed to properly fill out your financial aid forms.

- Federal income tax returns from 2004 or 2003
- Your W-2 forms or pay-check stubs
- Bank statements
- Your Social Security Card or number
- Your parents' W-2 forms
- Your parents' Social Security Card or numbers

ONGOING EVENT

When you have some free time, please join **Pastor Jordan, Isiah Crompton**, and other community members in their effort to get out the message about stopping violence in our communities. They walk from house to house every Saturday, knocking on doors and explaining to people the importance of keeping an eye on and working against violence in our neighborhoods. I would like to invite everyone, from individuals, to families, to groups of friends, and any concerned organizations to join us in making our streets safer for our families and our children. For more information on the **Stop the Violence** campaign, please contact **Pastor Jordan at (661) 472-2637**.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

Scholarship Opportunities

Any students interested in nursing careers should strongly consider applying for the Associate Degree Nursing Scholarship at Bakersfield College. **IT'S STILL NOT TOO LATE TO APPLY!**

I know how stressful it can be to have to worry about taking out student loans to pay for college, but you never have to repay scholarship money.

For more information on applying for the **Fall 2006/Spring 2007** scholarship call the **Health Professionals Education Foundation** at **1-800-773-1669** or visit www.healthprofessions.ca.gov. The application **deadline** for the fall 2006/spring 2007 school year scholarship is **March 24th 2006**.

Youth In Need

The **California Coalition for Youth's (CCY)** mission is to be the **PLACE** that improves and empowers the lives of California's youth by:

- Partnering with youth
- Linking with youth-serving programs throughout California
- Advocating for youth rights
- Connecting youth to resources
- Educating communities, policymakers, and stakeholders

The **CCY** also coordinates a statewide, toll free, 24-hour, confidential phone crisis line available to young people between the ages of 12-24, and concerned friends and family members. **CCY** provides crisis intervention counseling on many issues including family problems, sexual assault, eating disorders, teen pregnancy, substance abuse, suicide and more. **CCY** offers support, encouragement, and referrals to youth needing assistance or in crisis situations. The **California Youth Crisis Line** connects an average of 12,000 callers with vital resources annually. Agencies as well as young adults from every county in California use the Crisis **Line's toll-free number, 1-800-843-5200**.

NEED HOMEWORK HELP?

The **California State Library** has made available through their website a new service called **Live Homework Help**. This service enables students to connect on-line with a tutor for assistance with homework questions. Supported by Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) federal funding, students can access Live Homework Help through [28 California public libraries](#). It is important to note that the tutors who respond to student questions are screened, trained, and closely monitored.

Live Homework Help is easy! Log on to <http://www.library.ca.gov/tutor/> from your computer any time between **1:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.** and follow the simple setup instructions.

CALIFORNIA YOUTH CONNECTION

The **California Youth Connection (CYC)** is a statewide organization comprised of foster youth, both past and present, who work diligently in formulating policies and advocating for legislation on behalf of California's foster youth population.

For more information on **CYC**, please visit their web site at <http://www.calyouthconn.org/site/cyc/> or simply call **CYC's** statewide office at 415-442-5060.

MEETING REQUESTS

If you or your organization would like to set up a time to meet with me or would like for me to attend an event you are sponsoring, please feel free to contact my **Executive Secretary Ellen Manolis** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at Ellen.Manolis@asm.ca.gov.

INTERNS WANTED

I am accepting applications for the fall internship program in my **Hanford, Bakersfield and Sacramento** offices. Candidates should be residents of the 30th Assembly District, possess solid research and communication skills, and have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the Central Valley. Applications can be found by going to:

<http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>.

For Hanford office internships contact **Matt Rogers** at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at Matt.Rogers@asm.ca.gov.

For Bakersfield office internships contact **Paula DeLaRiva** at (661) 334-3745 or by e-mail at Paula.DeLaRiva@asm.ca.gov.

For Sacramento office internships contact **Brandon Sanders** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at Brandon.Sanders@asm.ca.gov.

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Web Site: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30/>

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